THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) During the months from February to April, 1992, two Pakistani diplomats visited Kerala. All diplomats in India including Pakistani diplomats, do not need prior permission for visits outside Delhi. They inform the Ministry of External Affairs (Protocol Division) about their intinerary and programme in advance. However, in the case of visits to restricted/ prohibited areas prior permission is required.

1003. [*Transferred to the 11th May, 1992.*]

Amnesty International Report on Deaths in Custody

1004. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI S. MADHAVAN:
SHRI VISHWASRAO RAM RAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report of the Amnesty International on torture, rape and 415 deaths in custody since 1985;

(b) if so, what has been Government's response thereto which is a party to the International Instruments on Human Rights and also State-wise details of such cases during the above period;

(c) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the Amnesty's 10 points programme to combat torture; and

(d) if so, what is Governmen's reacion thereto and what steps Government propose to take to improve he medieval condition in most of the police stations and the same type of outlook of most policemen?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) to (d) In its report entitled "Torture, Rape and Deaths in Custody in India" released in March, 1992, the Amnesy International (AI) has given a number of specific instances of reported excesses and violations of human rights in 19 States and Union Territories in India, primarily based on details published in local and national media and in the reports by Indian human rights organisations and other concerned bodies. Details of allegations have been sent to the concerned State Governments to provide factual details.

As the Amnesty International, inspite of our suggestion did not agree to postpone publication of the report by a few weeks to make available comments on specific allegations sought for from the State Governments, our comments were sent dealing with broader issues and other matters which need to be appreciated by the readers to understand the question of human rights in totality.

"Amnesty International" has also suggested a ten point programme for prevention of torure and other violations of human rights.

The thrust of the report of the Amnesty International is in sharp contrast with more balanced presentation on human rights matters by several other organisations, which have shown appreciation of India's vibrant democracy, free press, independent judiciary and highly sensitive and alert public opinion on major social and economic issues.

Many of the substantive points in the Amnesty International report are already mandated by the Constitution and laws of the land; some others deal with training and procedural matters. Efforts of the Central Government will continue to stress upon the States, who are primarily concerned with "police" and "public order" to vigorously pursue the legal obligations in these matters.